



ON THE PLANET MONGO

NO. 17
NOV.
CDC

15¢

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

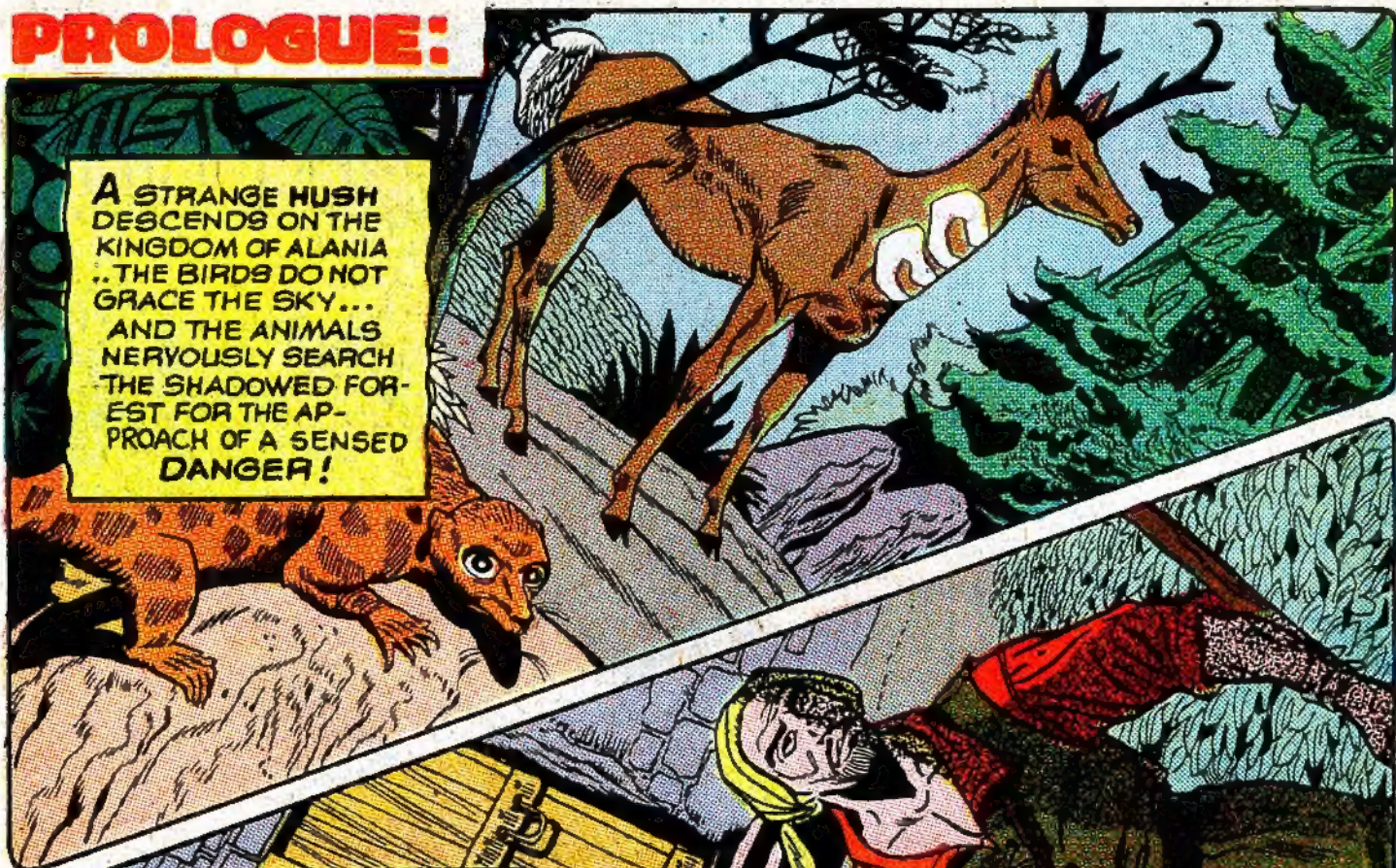
FLASH GORDON



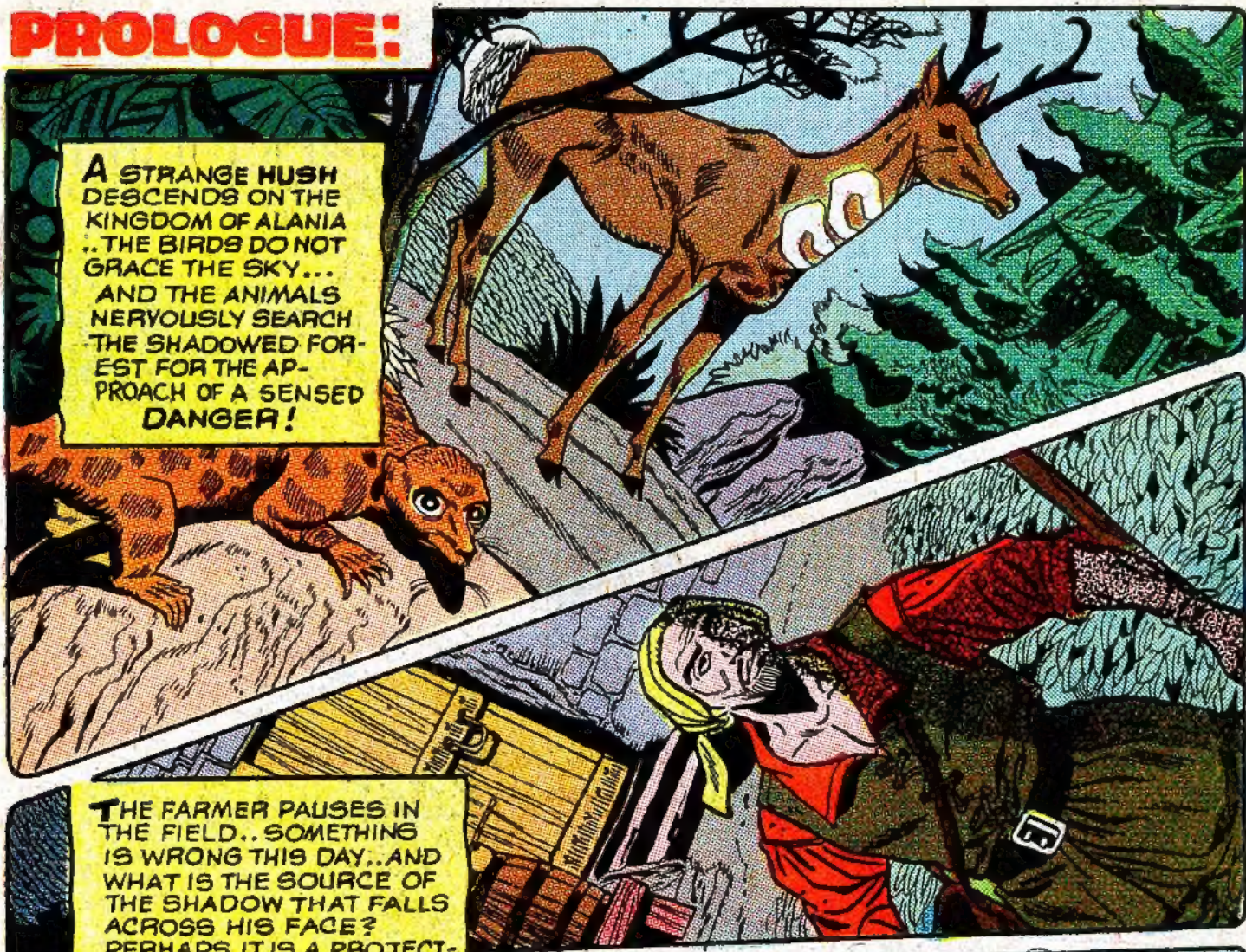
THE GEEPING MENACE

PROLOGUE:

A STRANGE HUSH
DESCENDS ON THE
KINGDOM OF ALANIA
..THE BIRDS DO NOT
GRACE THE SKY...
AND THE ANIMALS
NERVOUSLY SEARCH
THE SHADOWED FOR-
EST FOR THE AP-
PROACH OF A SENSED
DANGER!



THE FARMER PAUSES IN
THE FIELD.. SOMETHING
IS WRONG THIS DAY..AND
WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF
THE SHADOW THAT FALLS
ACROSS HIS FACE?
PERHAPS IT IS A PROJEC-
TION OF DOOM....



.. FOR WHEN IT PASSES..
THE FARMER WONDERS
NO LONGER..AND THE
SOIL CLAIMS THE TILLER!



HERE, THEN, IS A JUGGERNAUT OF DREAD....
A MARCH OF FEAR THAT IS DESTINED TO CLIMAX
AMID THE GLISTENING SPIRES OF ALANIA....

C-466

1.

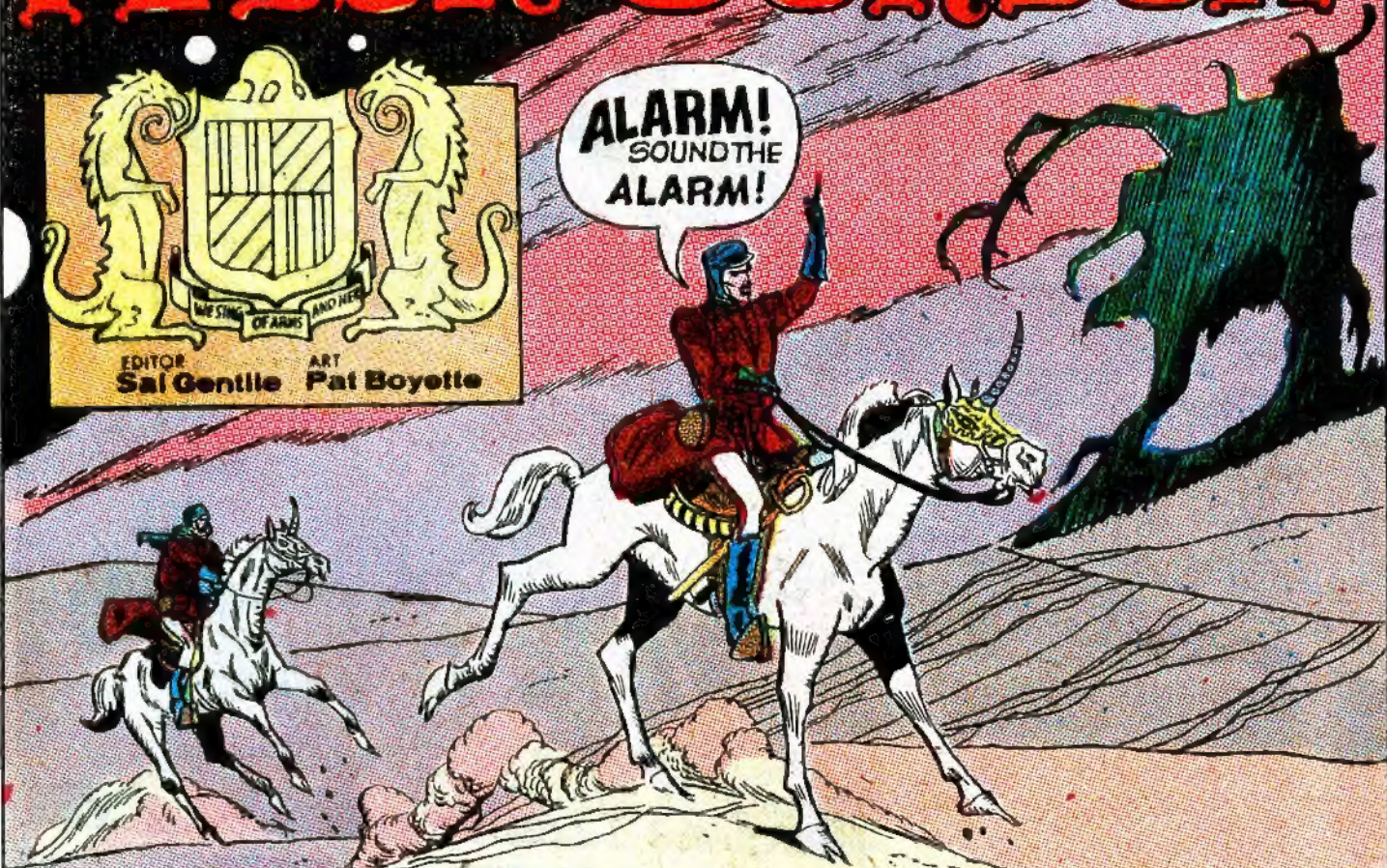
FLASH GORDON Vol. 2, No. 17, November, 1969.

published bimonthly by Charlton Press, Inc. at Charlton Building, Division St., Derby, Conn. 06418. © 1969 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. 15c per copy. Subscription 90c annually. Printed in U.S.A. Sal Gentile, Managing Editor. The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this periodical are entirely fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended. This magazine has been produced and sold subject to the restrictions that it shall only be resold at retail as published and at full cover price. It is violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price.

FLASH GORDON

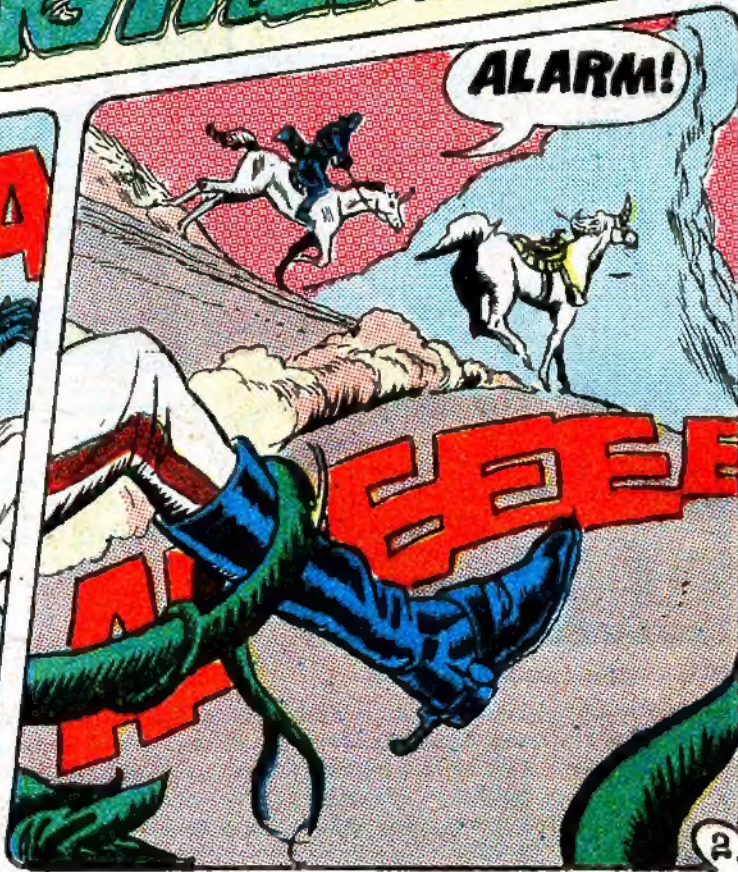


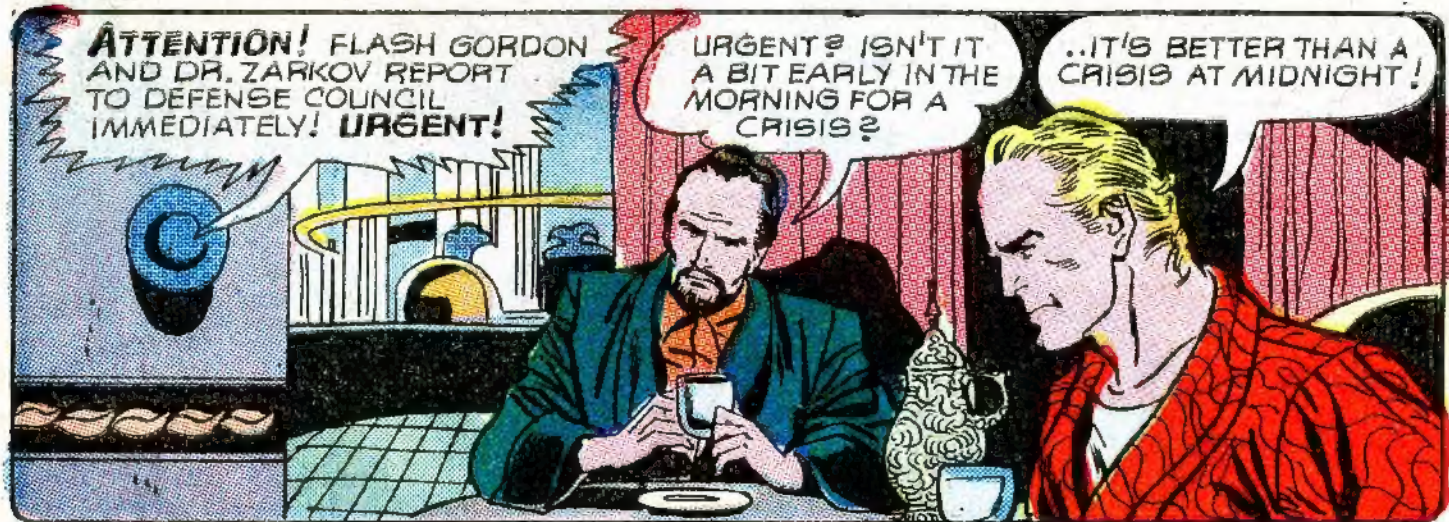
ALARM!
SOUND THE
ALARM!



DAWN BRINGS PANIC TO AN ALANIAN
PATROL AT THE SIGHT OF THE GROTESQUE
SILHOUETTE THAT DOMINATES THE LAVENDER
SUNRISE... HERALDING THE COMING OF...

THE CREEPING MENACE





URGENT? ISN'T IT A BIT EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR A CRISIS?

..IT'S BETTER THAN A CRISIS AT MIDNIGHT!

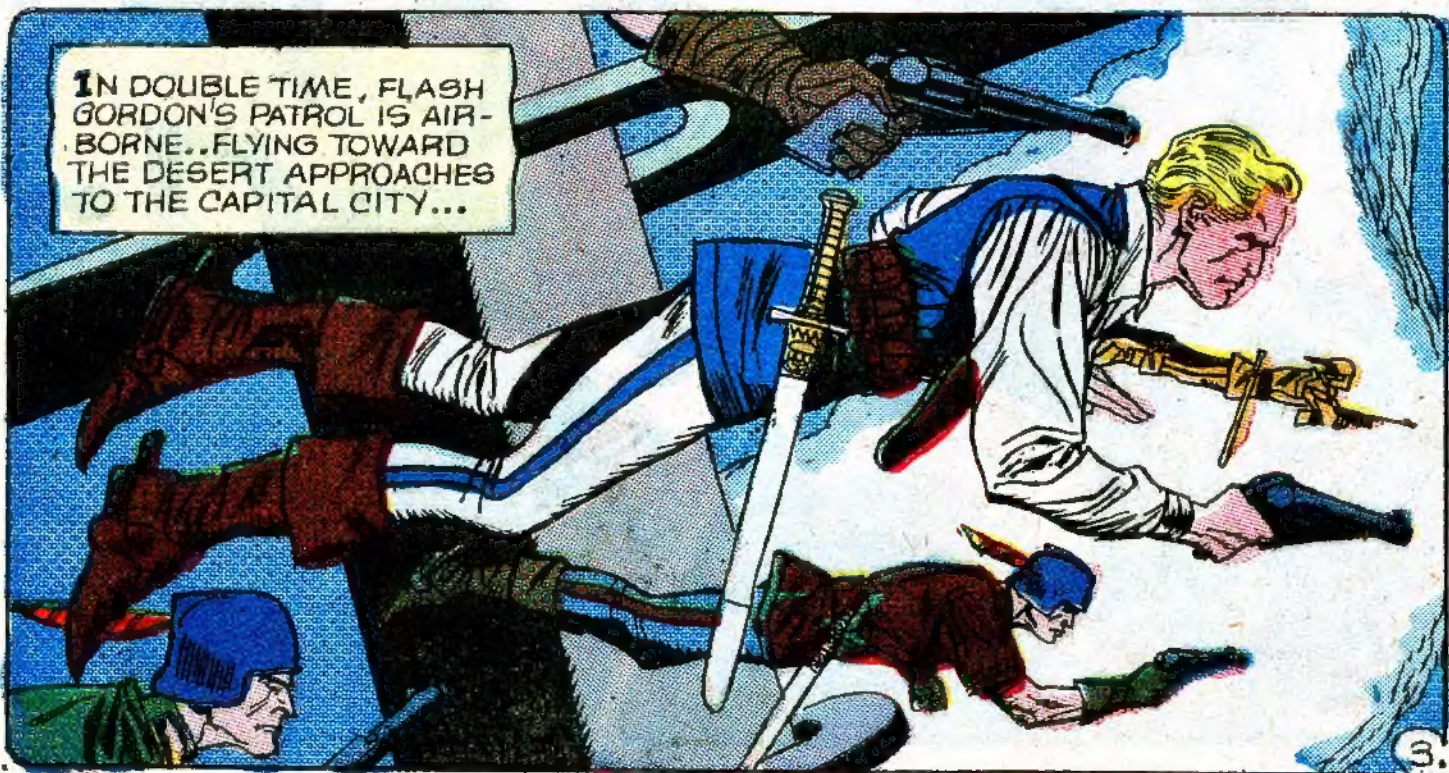
THE TWO EARTHMEN ARE GIVEN A HURRIED BRIEFING BY KING BARIN!



THAT GIVES US TIME FOR A QUICK INVESTIGATIVE PROBE AT LEAST!



THEN I RECOMMEND FLYING BELTS..THEY'LL GIVE US COMPLETE MANEUVERABILITY!



IN DOUBLE TIME, FLASH GORDON'S PATROL IS AIRBORNE..FLYING TOWARD THE DESERT APPROACHES TO THE CAPITAL CITY...

INCREDIBLE! THIS THING
IS NEARLY TWO-STORIES
TALL....

LOOK, FLASH...THERE'S
ANOTHER ONE!

DON'T
GET TOO
CLOSE,
CAPTAIN...THESE
THINGS ARE...

AHHH!



THE GIANT PLANT CREATURE RECOILS FROM THE HEAT OF FLASH'S BLASTER...

I'VE GOT THE CAPTAIN!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



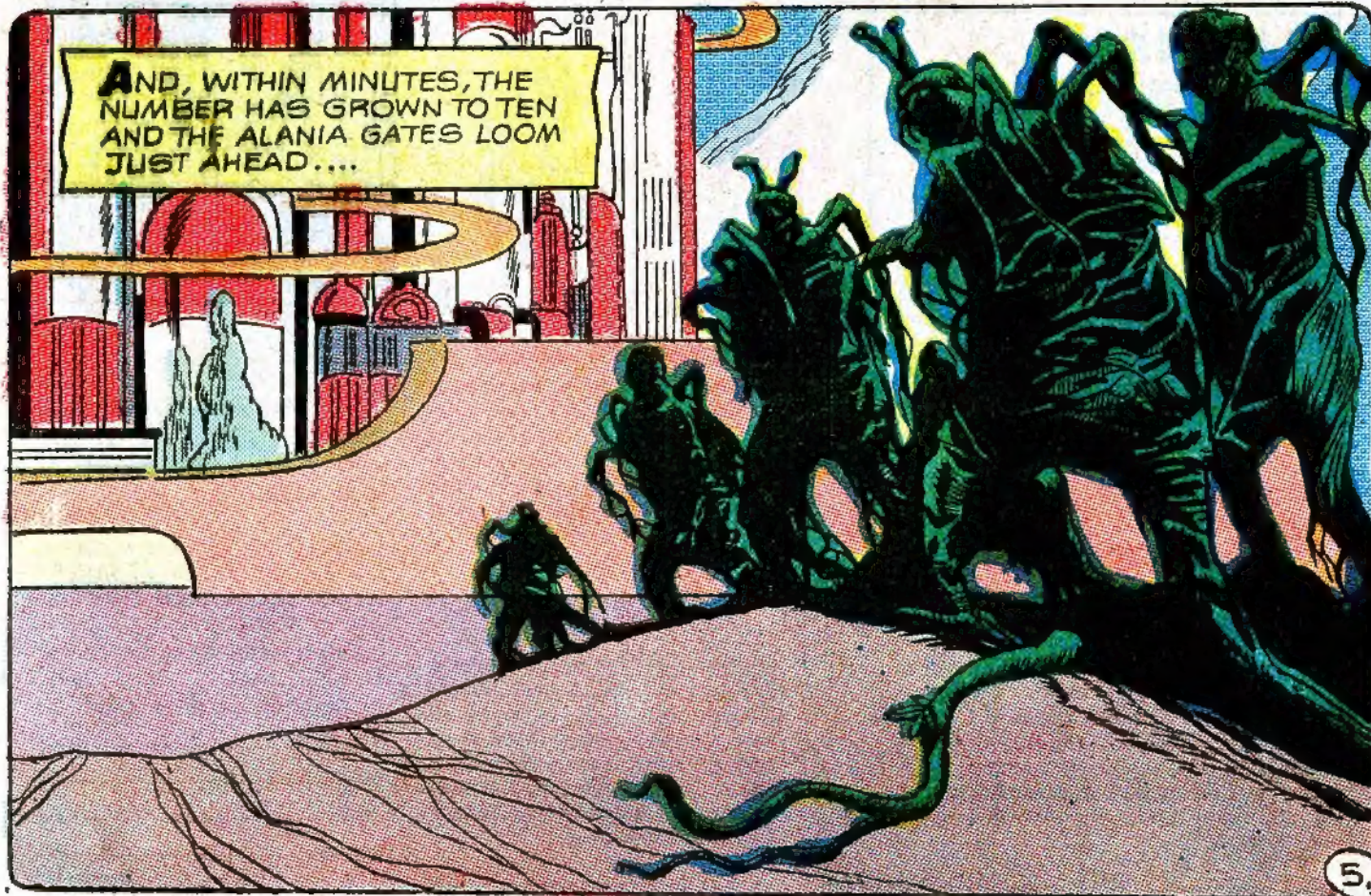
WE NOW KNOW THAT RAYS CAN PUT THE STING TO THEM!

BUT, PERHAPS NOT STOP THEM..THEY'RE STILL ADVANCING!



DR.ZARKOV MAY HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS.. BUT I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN STOP THEM WITH HEAT CANNONS FROM THE GATE! THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF THE THINGS AND,..

FOUR! IT HAS JUST BEEN REPORTED... THERE'RE NOW FOUR CREA-TURES!



AND, WITHIN MINUTES, THE NUMBER HAS GROWN TO TEN AND THE ALANIA GATES LOOM JUST AHEAD....

FLASH...WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

DALE...I WANT YOU
TO GO TO YOUR
QUARTERS...AND
STAY THERE! WE
SEEM TO BE UNDER
ATTACK FROM
SOME ALIEN
PLANT LIFE!

FIRE!

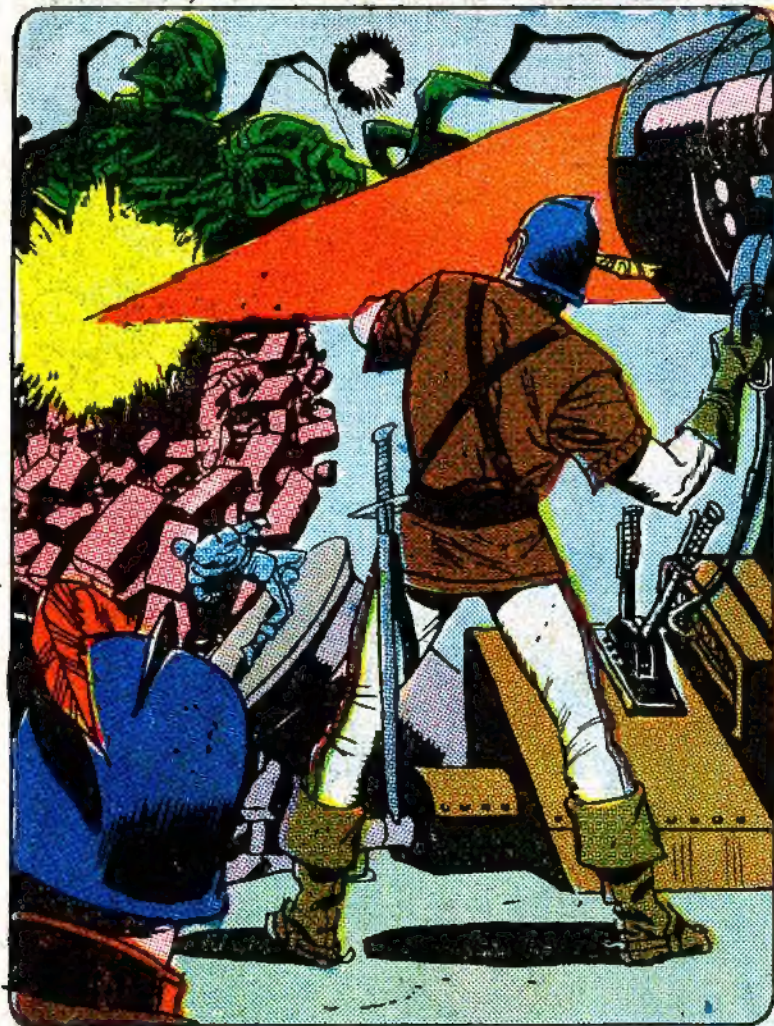
THEY'RE BREAKING THROUGH!

THE ADVANCING CREATURES ARE MET BY A DEVASTATING WALL OF FIRE!

WE'VE PRESSED EVERY UNIT INTO ACTION, FLASH!

IT'S WORKING, BARIN! THEY CAN'T STAND AGAINST THIS!

THE CONCENTRATED RAYS GLOW WITH THE BRILLIANCE OF THE SUN, AND THE PLANTS FALTER AND WITHER IN THE FACE OF THIS ALL-OUT DEFENSE!



..WE'VE WON!
THERE FALLS
THE LAST OF
THEM!



I'LL MAINTAIN
PATROLS TO
MAKE CERTAIN
THERE ARE NO
MORE IN THE
DESERT!

MEANTIME, DR.
ZARKOV...CAN YOU
GIVE US A LAB
REPORT ON THESE
CREATURES?
WHAT ARE THEY
?



IF THEY ARE JUST UNINTELLIGENT
PLANT MUTATIONS...THEN WHAT
CAUSED THEM TO GO ON A
RAMPAGE ?

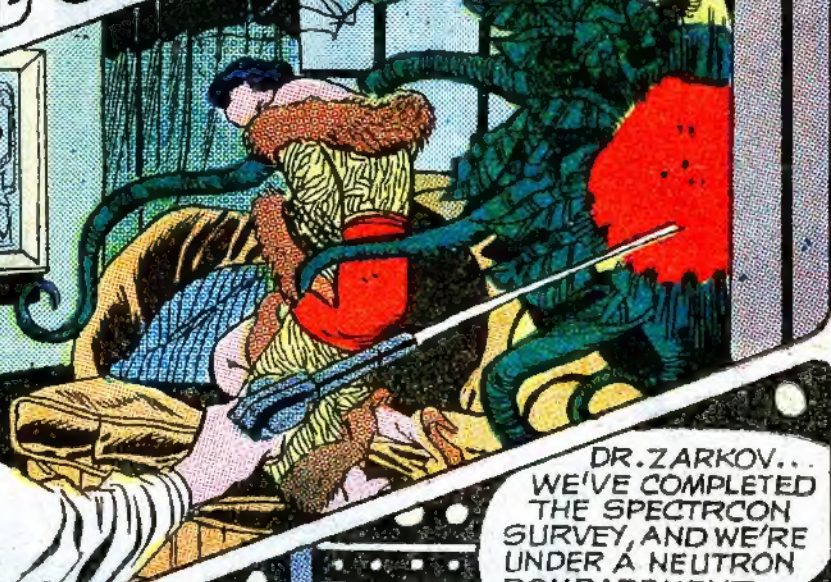


IN THE QUARTERS
OF DALE ARDEN, THE
STRANGE CASE OF
THE ATTACKING PLANTS
IS TAKING A DRAMATIC
TURN!

DALE!

AIEEEEE

AIEEEEE



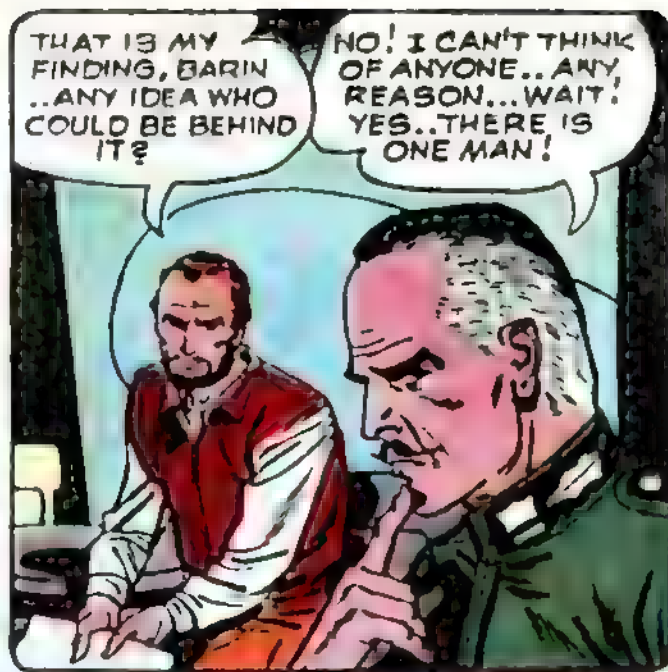
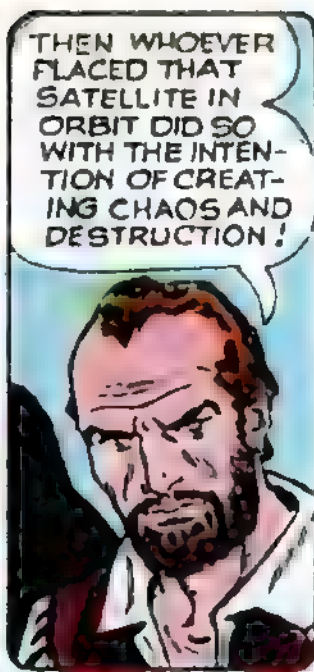
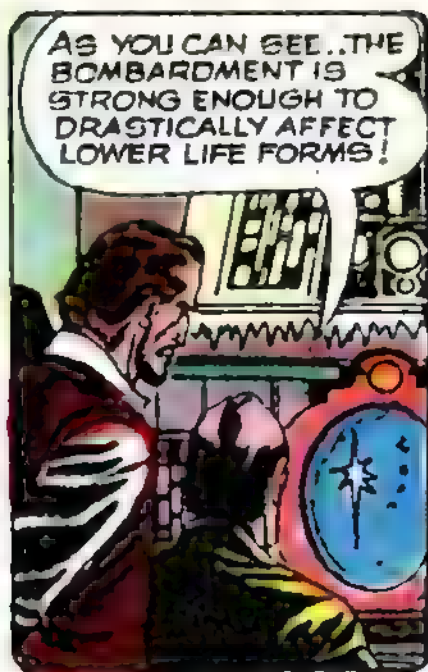
DR. ZARKOV...
WE'VE COMPLETED
THE SPECTRCON
SURVEY, AND WE'RE
UNDER A NEUTRON
BOMBARDMENT
FROM SATELLITE
CLUSTER TEN!

NO SIMPLE HOUSEHOLD
PLANT CAN BECOME A
VICIOUS MONSTER
WITHOUT SOME DIRECTED
AND POWERFUL INFLU-
ENCE!

FLASH...
THIS GIVES
US A NEW CLUE...
A POSSIBLE NEW
INVESTIGATIVE
APPROACH! I'M
TAKING THIS SAMPLE
TO THE LAB!

THERE...IT'S
ALL RIGHT! THE
THING IS DEAD!





AND DON'T MISUNDER-
STAND..THE BARON IS
A COMPETENT SCIENTIST
..ALSO- HE'S EMBRACED
SORCERY! YES.. HE'S
CAPABLE OF ORGANIZING
THE PLANT ATTACK!

..AND REVENGE
WOULD BE HIS
MOTIVE!

IN ANY CASE..
THE NEUTRON
SATELLITE MUST
BE REMOVED!

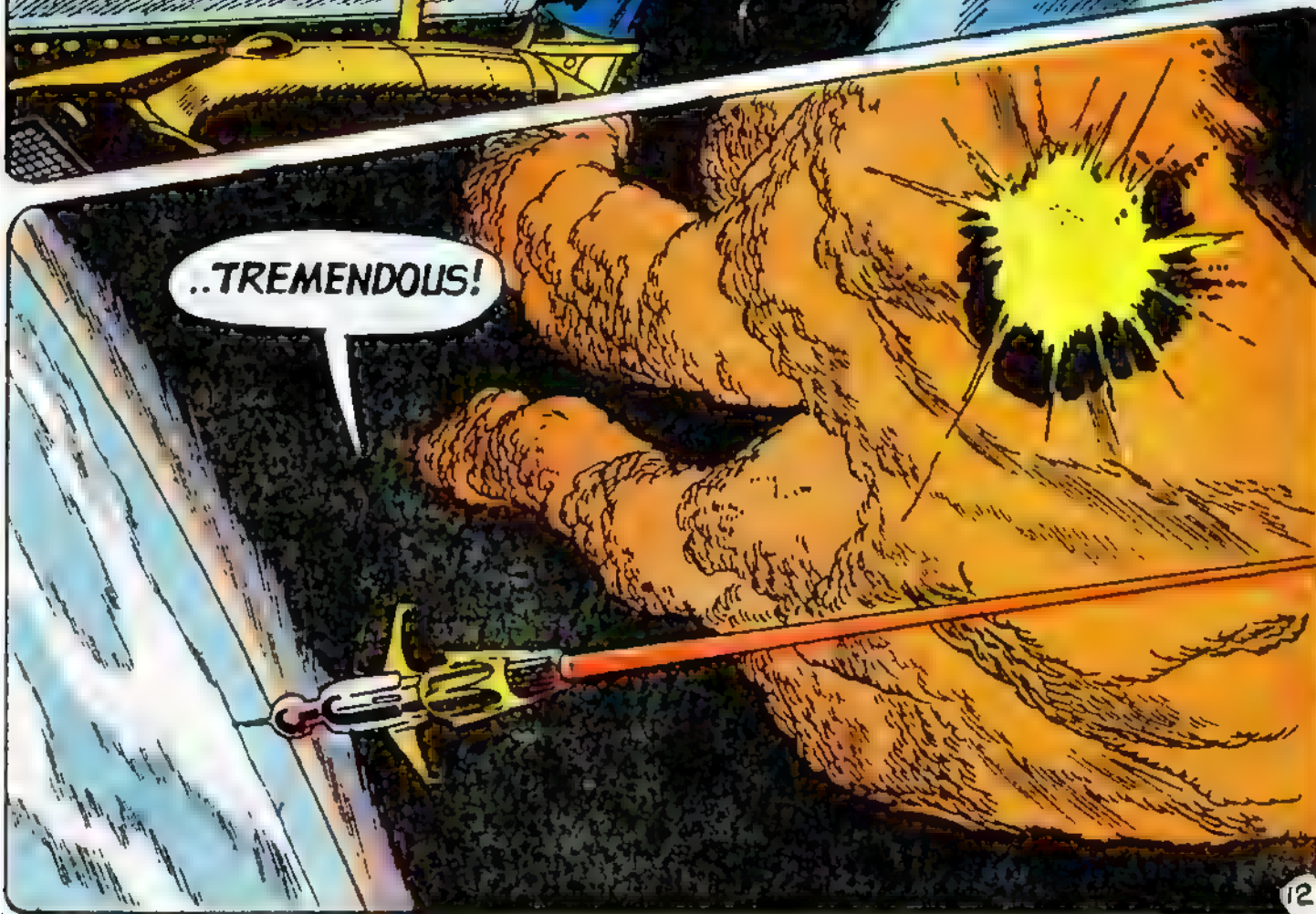
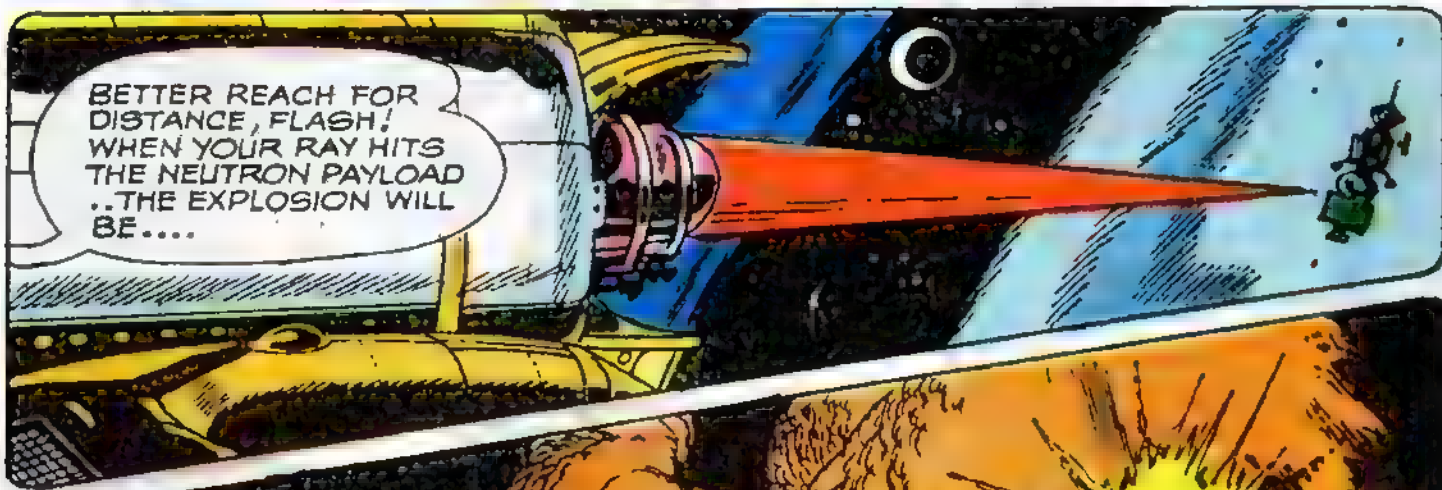
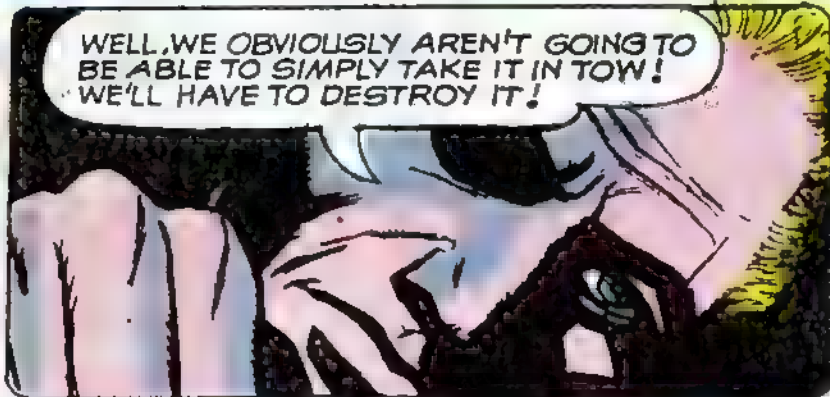
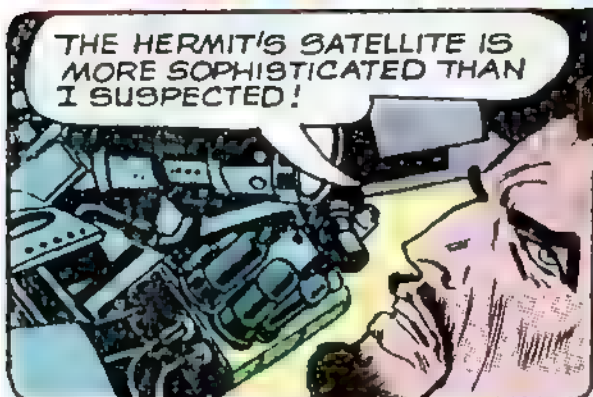
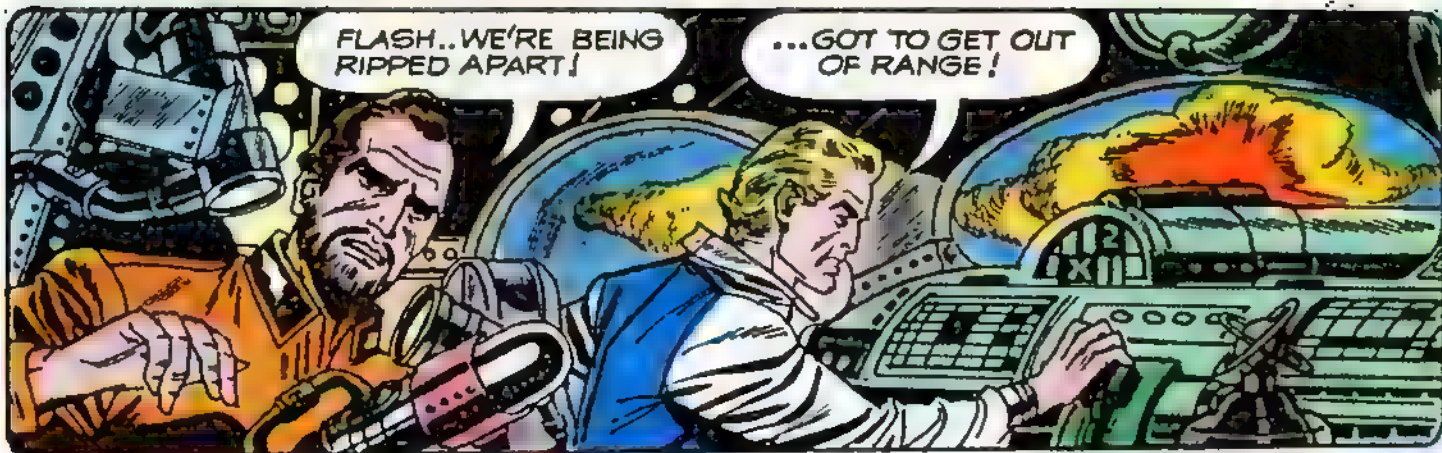
IF YOU'LL ARRANGE
FOR A SWEEPER SHIP
..I'LL BRIEF FLASH
AND WE'LL PAY A
CALL ON THIS...
HERMIT!

AND SO, ROARING
ROCKET ENGINES
HURL FLASH AND
ZARKOV TOWARD
SATELLITE CLUSTER
TEN!

.. AS THEY APPROACH THE
OFFENDING SATELLITE...

EVADE!

FLASH..THAT
THINGS GOT A
DEFENSE
SYSTEM!



SO MUCH FOR THE
NEUTRON MENACE!
NOW...WHERE DO WE
FIND THE HERMIT?

EASTERN FRIGIA! THE HEADINGS
HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED!

THEN WE ARE
ON OUR WAY!

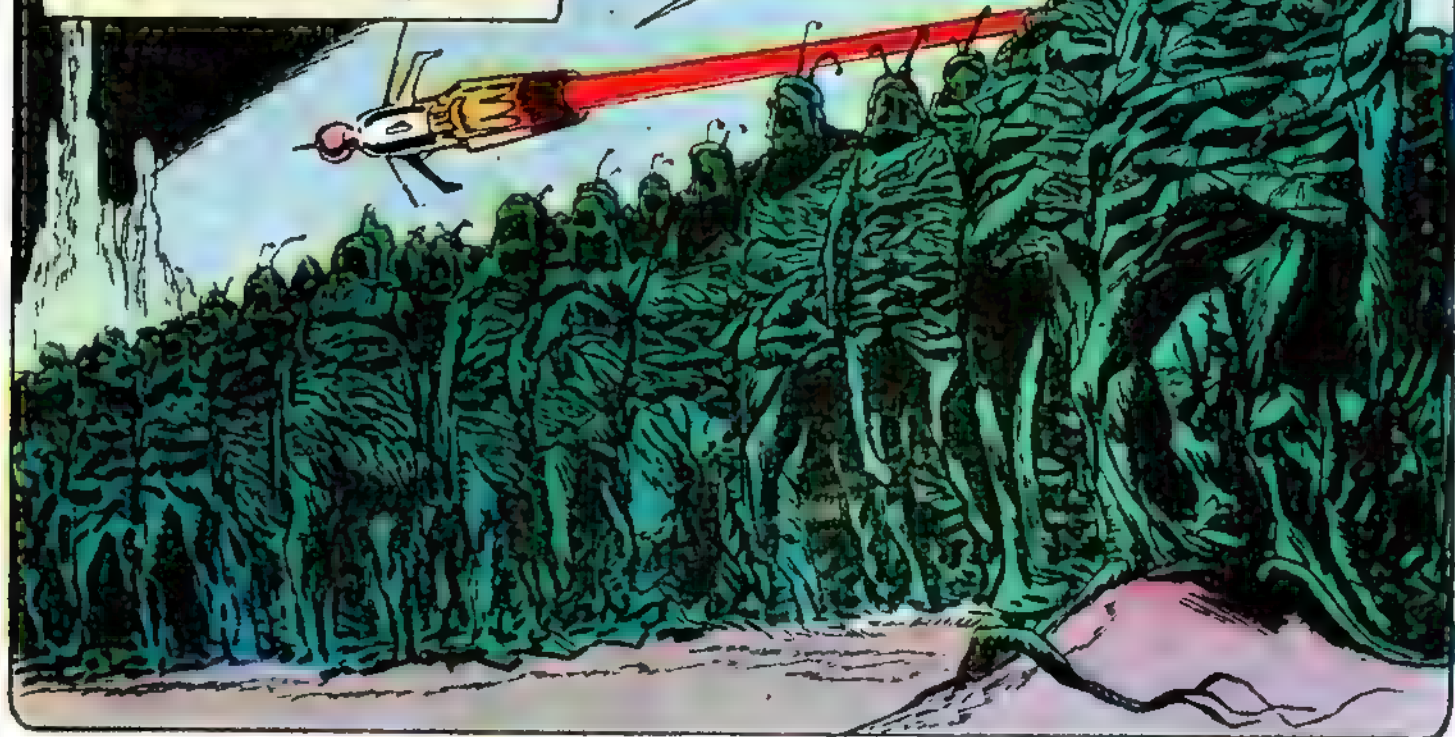
UNDER COMPUTER CONTROL
-THE GLEAMING SWEEPER
SHIP IS GUIDED OVER THE
FROZEN, BARREN WASTES
OF FRIGIA...

THEN, SUDDENLY, THE
TERRAIN CHANGES..
FROZEN PEAKS RE-
TREAT BEFORE THE
LIFE-GIVING WARMTH
OF A LUSH VALLEY!

I SEE IT.. BUT I
DON'T BELIEVE IT!

AS FLASH AND DR. ZARKOY
MOVE IN FOR CLOSER SUR-
VEILLANCE..THE TRANQUIL
VALLEY BECOMES A SCENE
OF STAGGERING DANGER...

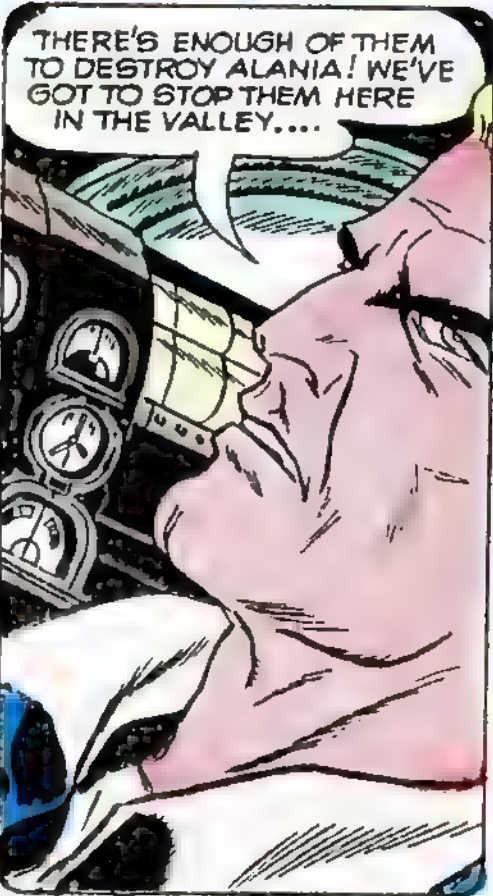
MONSTER PLANTS!
...THOUSANDS OF
THEM....



AND, FLASH..THEY'RE MOVING!
THEY'RE ON THE MARCH! THE
HERMIT IS SENDING THEM OUT
OF THE VALLEY....

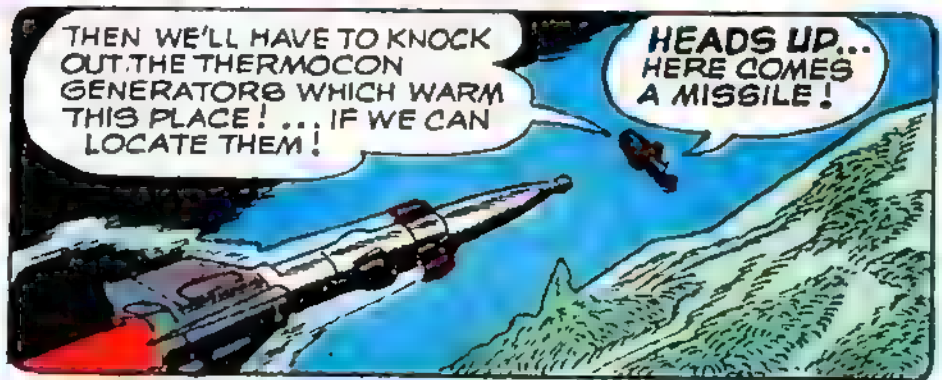


THERE'S ENOUGH OF THEM
TO DESTROY ALANIA! WE'VE
GOT TO STOP THEM HERE
IN THE VALLEY....

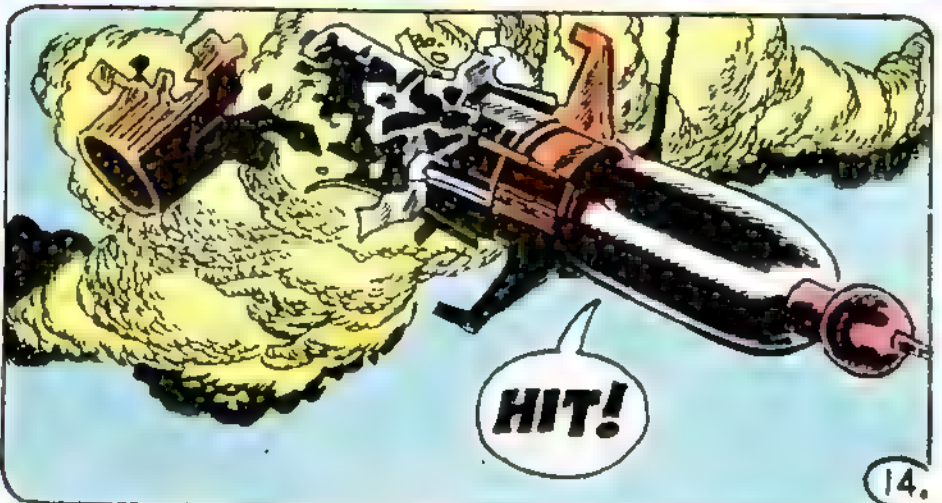


THEN WE'LL HAVE TO KNOCK
OUT THE THERMOCON
GENERATORS WHICH WARM
THIS PLACE! ... IF WE CAN
LOCATE THEM!

HEADS UP...
HERE COMES
A MISSILE!



HIT!



JETTISON MAIN FUEL HULL... SWITCH TO EMERGENCY POWER... AND WE'RE STILL FLYING!

...NOT FOR LONG, FLASH!

BUT MAYBE LONG ENOUGH! WHEN THE HERMIT FIRED THAT MISSILE... HE MAY HAVE REVEALED THE LOCATION OF HIS THERMOCON INSTALLATION!

PAYDIRT!

IN A DESPERATION BID, FLASH DIRECTS MAXIMUM FIREPOWER AGAINST THE MISSILE SILO AND...

...THE VALLEY SHUDDERS UNDER AN ERUPTION OF FIRE AND DEVASTATION!

THE HOLOCAUST IS FOLLOWED BY A RAGING BLIZZARD-BORNE ON STINGING WINDS OF POLAR FURY!

THE PLANT CREATURES STUMBLE AND ARE FOREVER TRAPPED IN A VISE OF ICE AND SNOW!

WE MAY BE LIMPING HOME LIKE A WOUNDED EAGLE, BUT I THINK WE DID A JOB!

I THINK THE HERMIT HAS CEASED TO BE A PROBLEM!

BUT, THEN—THE GOOD DOCTOR CANNOT LOOK THROUGH THE DARKNESS INTO THE EYES OF THE LONE FIGURE WHO STANDS AMID THE DEBRIS OF HIS DREAMS OF REVENGE! HE CANNOT SEE THE FLAMES OF HATRED THAT LIVE TO FLARE AGAIN!

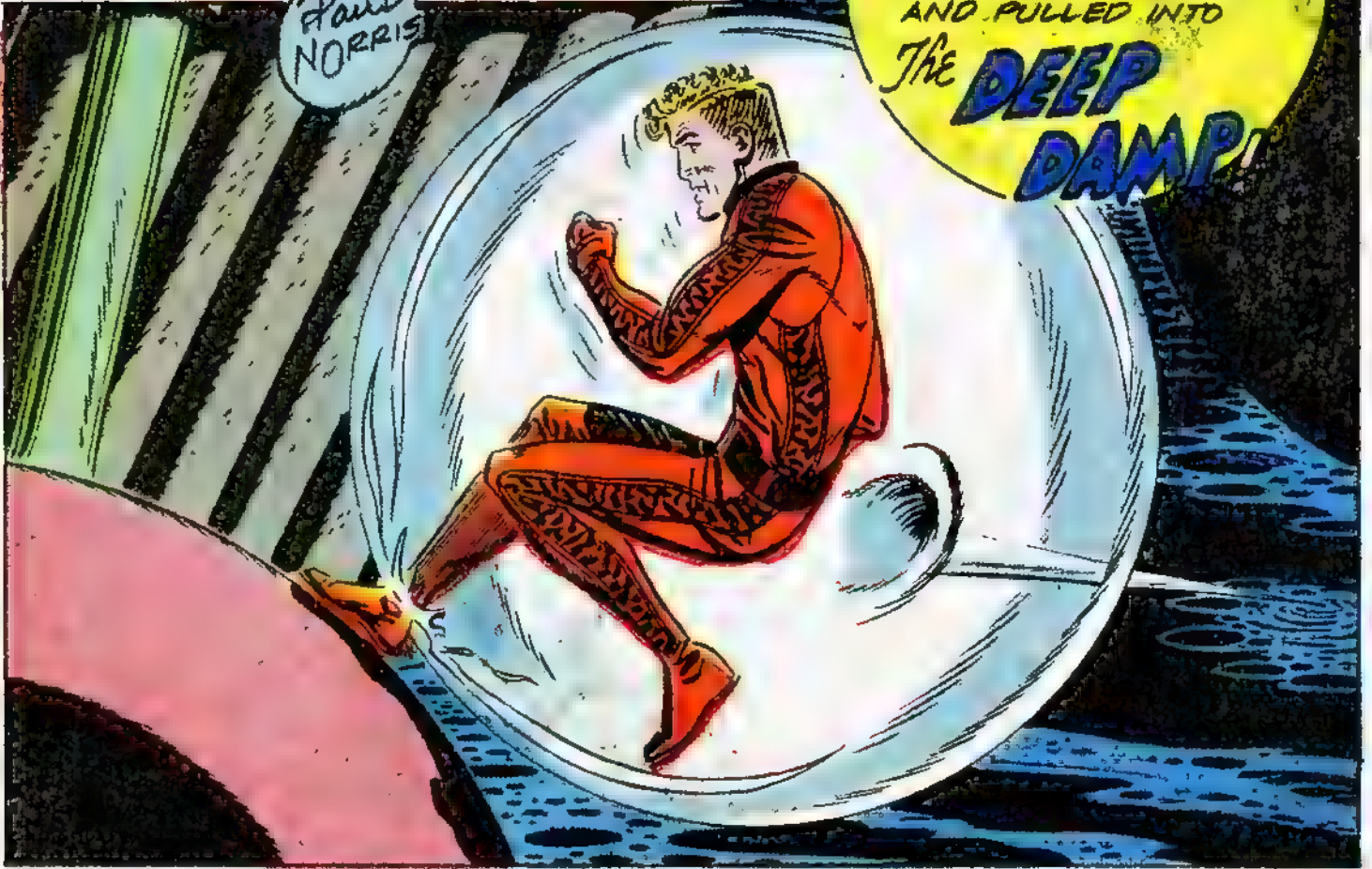
THE END

BRICK BRADFORD

By
Paul
NORRIS

THE TIME-TOP IS
DOWN ON A STRANGE
SEA COVERED PLANET...
WHILE BRICK MAKES
REPAIRS HE IS CAUGHT
AND PULLED INTO

THE **DEEP**
DAMP!



TRAPPED IN THE BUBBLE, BRICK IS
DRAGGED TOWARD THE BOTTOM OF
THE SEA....



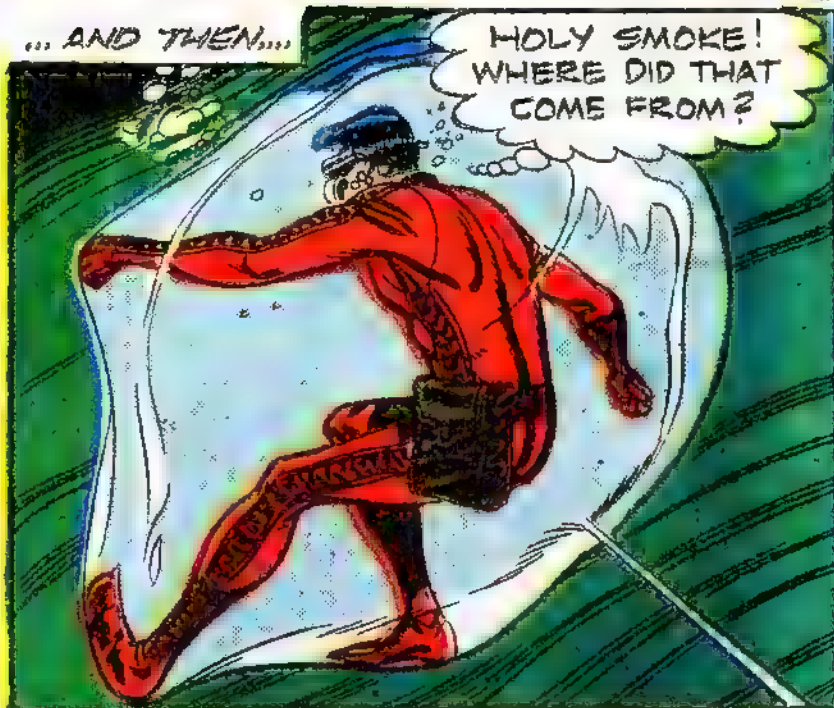
THIS THING MUST BE FILLED
WITH A GAS.... I.... I'M GOING
TO BLACK OUT!



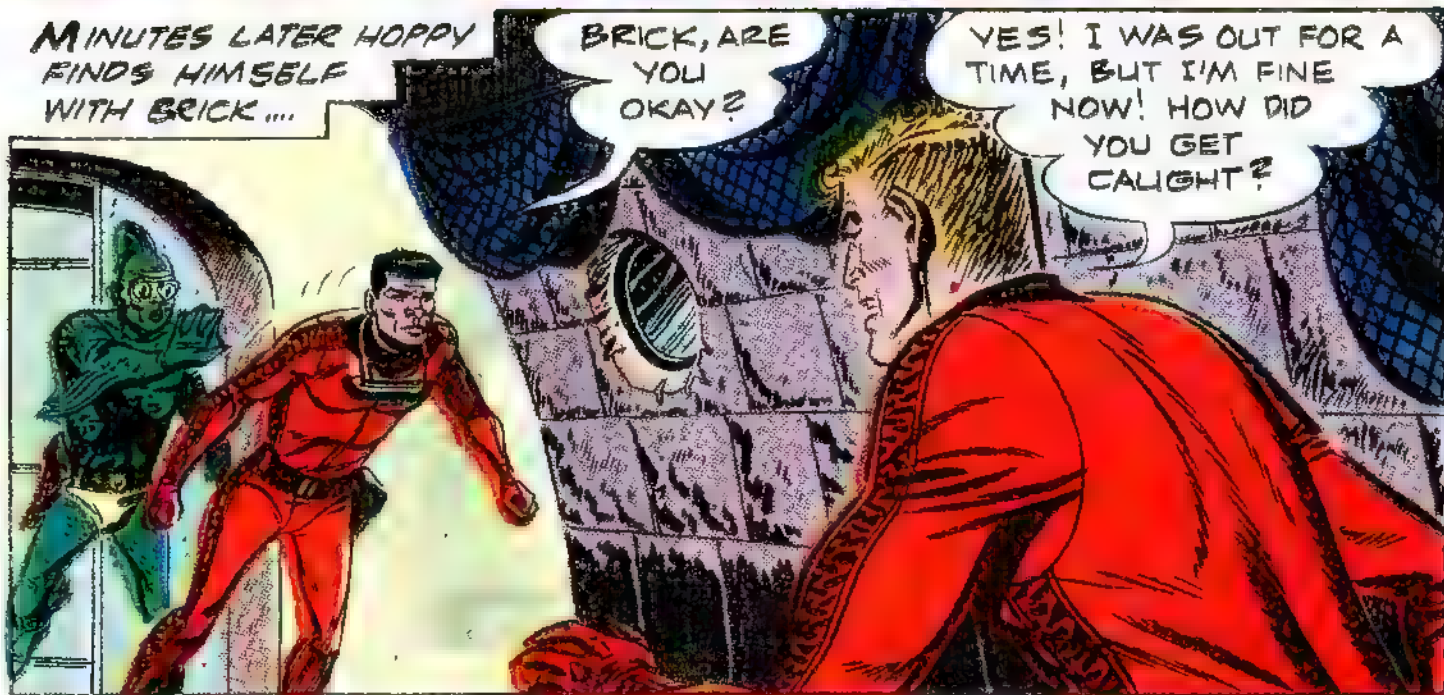
HOPPY SEARCHES THROUGH
PASSAGEWAYS....



... AND THEN,...



MINUTES LATER HOPPY
FINDS HIMSELF
WITH BRICK....

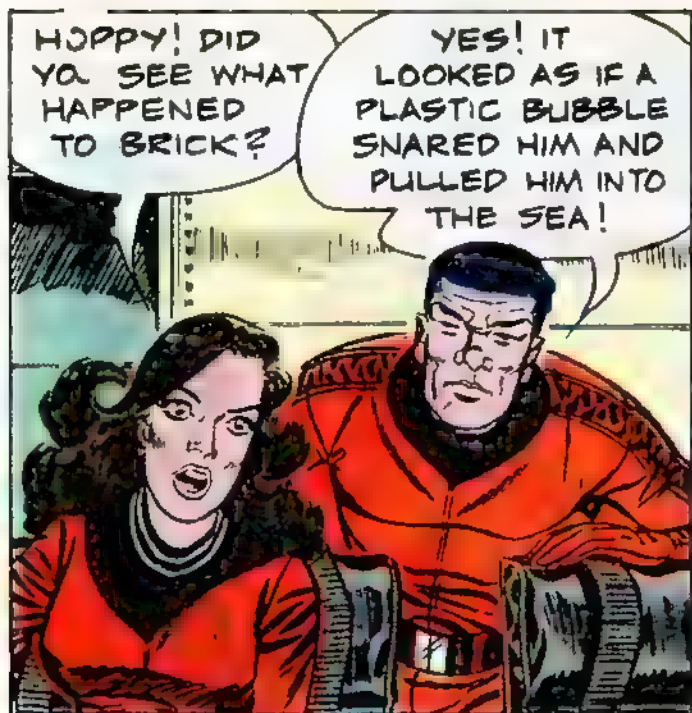


LOOKING FOR
YOU! WHAT'S
THE SETUP?

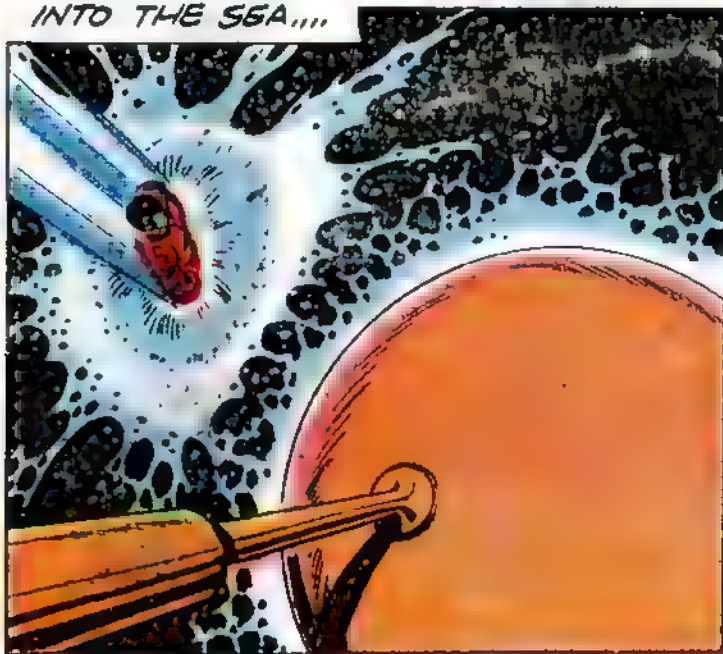


WE CAN TAKE
HIM! HE'S
TOOK!





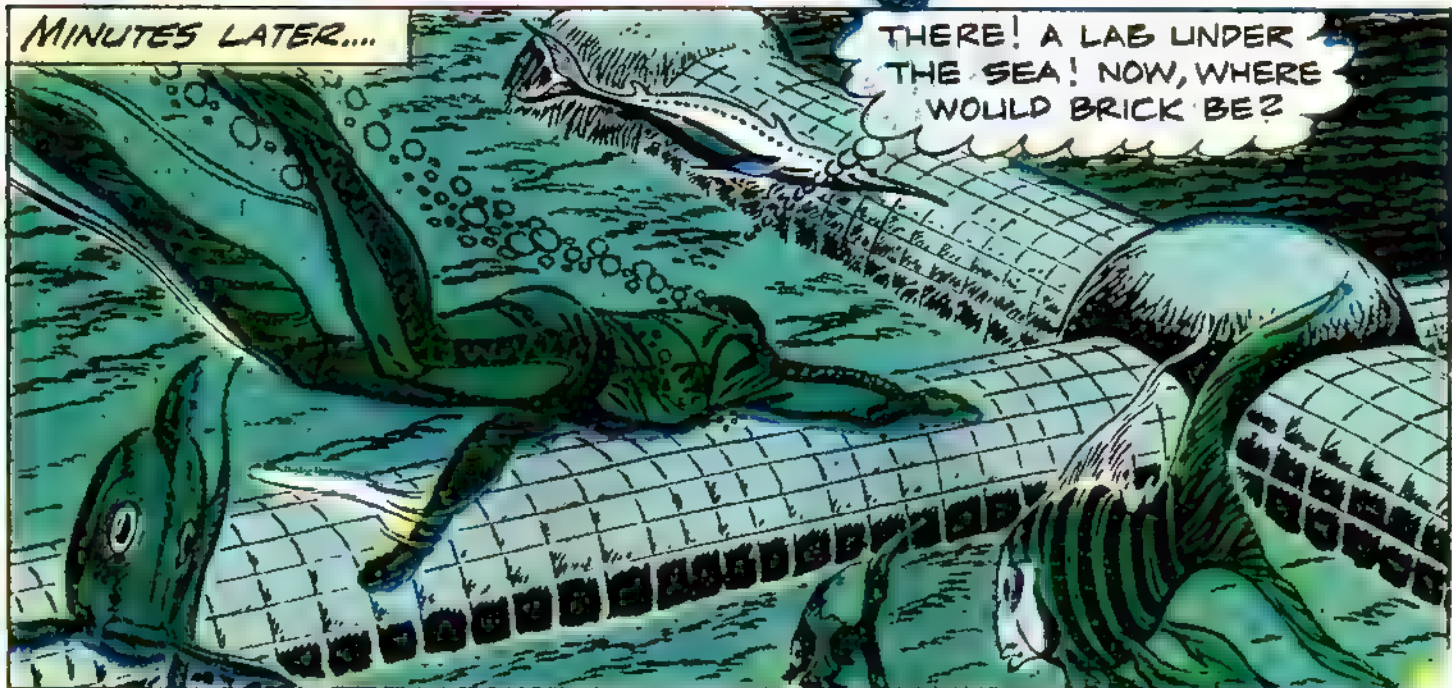
SECONDS LATER HOPPY PLUNGES INTO THE SEA....



WITH THE GILL HE IS ABLE TO SWIM AND BREATHE AS EASILY AS A FISH....



MINUTES LATER....



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING P/



THIS GUN HE CARRIES
SHOOTS THE BUBBLES!
SOMEONE'S
COMING!



BRICK USES THE GUN AS THE DOOR
OPENS....

THIS SHOULD
GET US OUT
OF HERE!



NEVER THOUGHT BLOWING
BUBBLES COULD BE SUCH
FUN! OPEN THE AIR LOCK,
HOPPY, THE WHOLE
STAFF'S PLASTIC
COATED NOW!

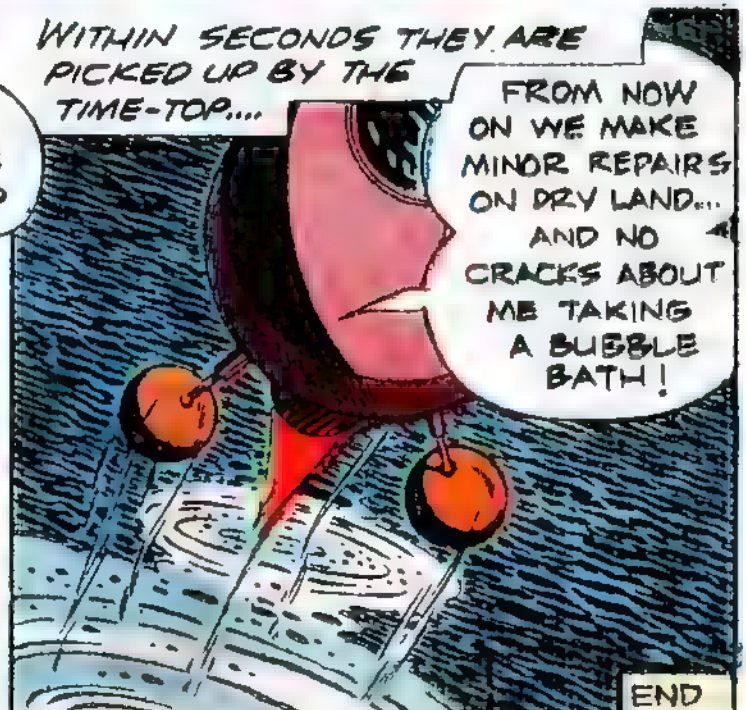
WILL
DO!
HERE'S
AN EXTRA
GILL FOR
YOU!



A SHORT TIME LATER.... BRICK
AND HOPPY SURFACE....

WHAT DO YOU THINK
THEY WANTED WITH
YOU, BRICK?

WHO KNOWS?
I'M NOT GOING
BACK TO FIND
OUT!



WITHIN SECONDS THEY ARE
PICKED UP BY THE
TIME-TOP....

FROM NOW
ON WE MAKE
MINOR REPAIRS
ON DRY LAND...
AND NO
CRACKS ABOUT
ME TAKING
A BUBBLE
BATH!

END

Death Defier

Cable Car Catastrophe

My full name is John Allen Wallington. In reports my three initials are used: J.A.W. But in the various countries in the world that use my services, I am known as "Death Defier." For wherever there is a challenge to justice, there I go. I care not if I have to be on the burning sands of the desert, the freezing snows of the Arctic, the highest mountain in the world, or through unknown jungle areas. All that counts is that justice must be done. And often the challenger is Death!

And in this episode, the challenger was Death with the lives of 16 innocent people at stake. At that given moment I was sitting at a table by myself in the cafe Toumain, in Ingelsbruck. I had brought some confidential papers to the capital and then drove out to this famous resort for a few days of relaxation. A police car stopped at the curb and an official got out. He came up to me at my table.

"My name is Captain Hans Letterman," he said. "We were notified from the capital that you were here. Please come to my car. We need your help at once. It is a matter of life or death."

I went with him to his car and he told me the terrible news. The cable car going up to the mountain had slipped off one wheel and the linking cable had snapped.

"The weather report is very bad," he informed me. "By nine this evening the wind velocity will be more than 50 miles per hour. And that would hurl the cable car down into the valley. My wife and my little daughter are among the passengers."

Ten minutes later we were at the loading platform of the cable Tram that connected the valley with the famous mountain. I was introduced to Johan Siegel, the chief mechanic.

"I have three of my best men here," he told me. "We can run the downhill cable car uphill so that we are opposite the other cable car. If we can but lift the snapped cable up and get the wheel on its track, we can pull that cable to safety. We realize it would be too dangerous to even think of trying to transfer the passengers from car to car."

I got into that cable car. The men brought with them a lot of material that might help in the rescue. Slowly we inched up until we were now

opposite the dangling car.

"Back up to the next cross-arm," I said. "I will then try to cross over. You will hold a rope attached to my body in case I fall. Also give me a thick pair of gloves."

Fortunately I did not slip. I crossed over and the people in the dangling car saw me and that must have helped their courage. I then climbed underneath the car. Took the rope off my body and I managed to attach it to the broken part of the cable. Then I climbed back to my cable car with part of the rope in my hand.

"Attach this rope to the car," I ordered. "Then move slowly. You will bring the dangling car up. The next move, if this works, is to get that wheel in position."

It worked and then my next step was a most dangerous one.

"Give me the crowbar. I can get the wheel back but it may slip off again. And if it does, that car will crash down to destruction. I will have to stand or kneel on the top of the car. And with the crowbar try to hold the wheel in place."

"But that may be almost certain death for you," protested Johan Siegel.

"If I don't, then it will be almost certain death for the people trapped in that car. I think the wind velocity is increasing."

I got on top of the car and used the rope to hold myself in one position. I needed every ounce of strength that my body could muster. With the crowbar I pressed against the housing of the wheel.

We went slowly downhill to the valley. To the people inside the car, it must have seemed like an eternity. Actually it took only a little more than an hour. But when we were safe again, the wind had increased. It was more than evident that we had just beaten Death by only a short interval of time.

Johan Siegel took the hand of a very old woman and brought her up to me.

"You saved my grandmother among the people. She feels you are no ordinary person. What have you to say to her?"

What to say? I just smiled and kissed her on the cheek. Death had been cheated this time out of its prey.

FLASH GORDON

THROUGH THE INFINITE REACHES OF SPACE - VERY FEW THINGS CAN BE SAID TO BE UNIFORM! STRANGE THINGS APPEAR IN MANY GUISES! BUT, ONE THING REMAINS CONSTANT...THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL! AND TO A STARTLED ALANIA - ONE ASPECT OF EVIL IS MADE PAINFULLY CLEAR!

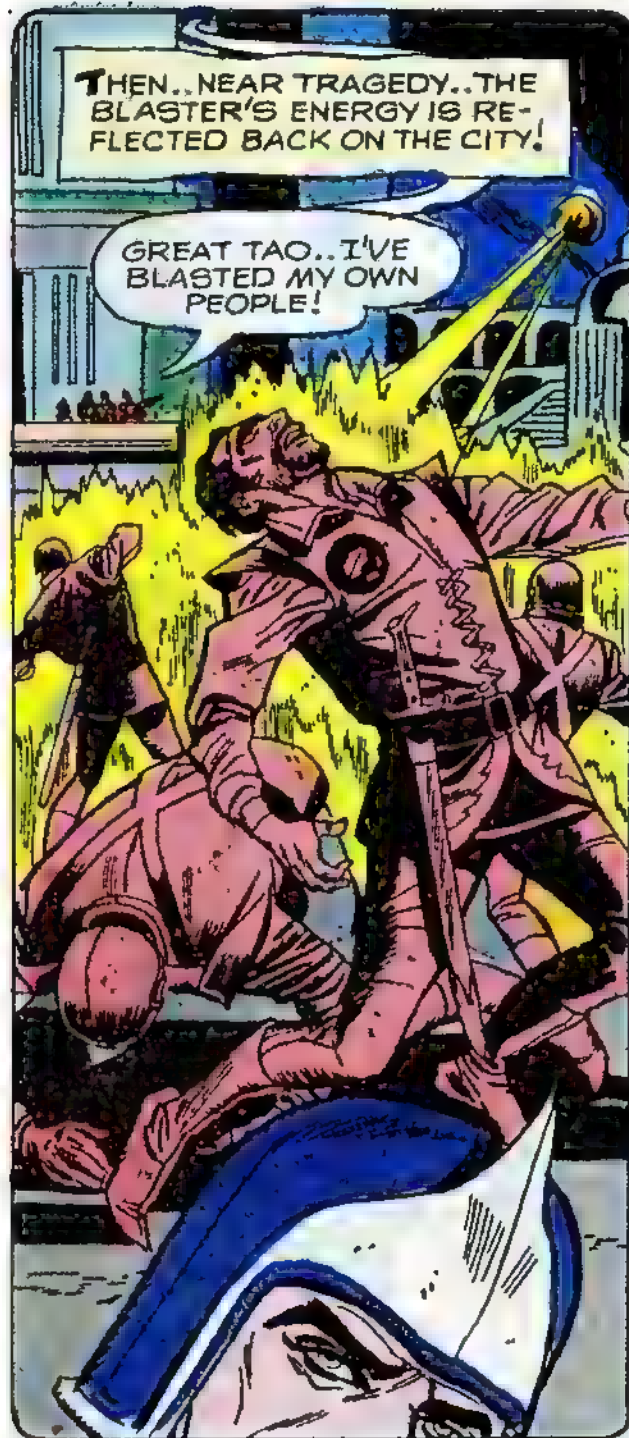
THE INTRUDER

EDITOR
Sal Gentile
ART
Pat Boyette

C-442

ONE MOMENT THE SKY WAS EMPTY AND THE NEXT - THAT **THING** APPEARED!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...BUT IT HAS TO BE DESTROYED!



THEN.. NEAR TRAGEDY.. THE BLASTER'S ENERGY IS REFLECTED BACK ON THE CITY!

GREAT TAO.. I'VE BLASTED MY OWN PEOPLE!



THANK GOD.. THEY'RE ONLY STUNNED!

WHATEVER IT IS, IT DISSIPATES ENERGY!



I'VE GOT TO THINK OF ANOTHER LINE OF DEFENSE!

WHA... IT'S GONE!

A SHORT TIME LATER:



THEN YOU WOULD SAY IT IS NOT OF OUR SYSTEM?

I CAN FIND NO LISTED DEVICE THAT IS REMOTELY SIMILAR!



THEN WHAT IS IT AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

AT THIS POINT, I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA!

LATER, IN AN EFFORT TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIOUS INTRUDER'S WHEREABOUTS..

BUT HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND IT IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE IT WENT?

I'VE GOT TO TRY, DALE, THE FUTURE OF ALANIA MAY DEPEND ON IT!

AND SO..FLASH GORDON AGAIN REACHES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

BUT HOW CAN A SINGLE MAN FIGHT..THAT..THING?

FLASH..ISN'T LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, DALE! HE ONLY WANTS TO KNOW WHAT ..AND WHERE THE DEVICE IS?

REACHING THE VOID OF NEAR SPACE.. FLASH TURNS HIS ROCKET TOWARD THE CREEPING DARKNESS WHICH SIGNALS NIGHT FOR THOSE BOUND TO THE PLANET BELOW...

IF ZARKOV IS RIGHT..I'D BETTER TURN ON MY OMNILASER NOW!

THE LIGHT PRODUCED BY THE OMNILASER SHOULD BRING THE THING OUT OF HIDING...IF THAT'S WHAT IT'S DOING!

THERE! A FLASH OF LIGHT! THE DEVICE!

ZARKOV...CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'VE GOTTEN A RESPONSE TO MY SIGNAL...I'M GOING IN TO SEE IF I'VE FOUND THE DEVICE...MONITOR ME... I MAY NOT COME BACK!

OH! HE MUSTN'T TRY TO FIGHT ALONE...HE MUSTN'T!

I HAVE IT! THE GLOBE...IT'S HERE IN THE SHADOW OF THE KRAZNIA MOUNTAINS!

IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE, DALE...HE HAS TO! THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU, FLASH! WHEN YOU FIRE...HEAD STRAIGHT FOR IT...DON'T PULL UP UNTIL YOU HAVE STOPPED FIRING!

I HAVE IT AND AM OPENING FIRE
ON IT NOW WITH THE FULL FORCE
OF MY BLASTERS!

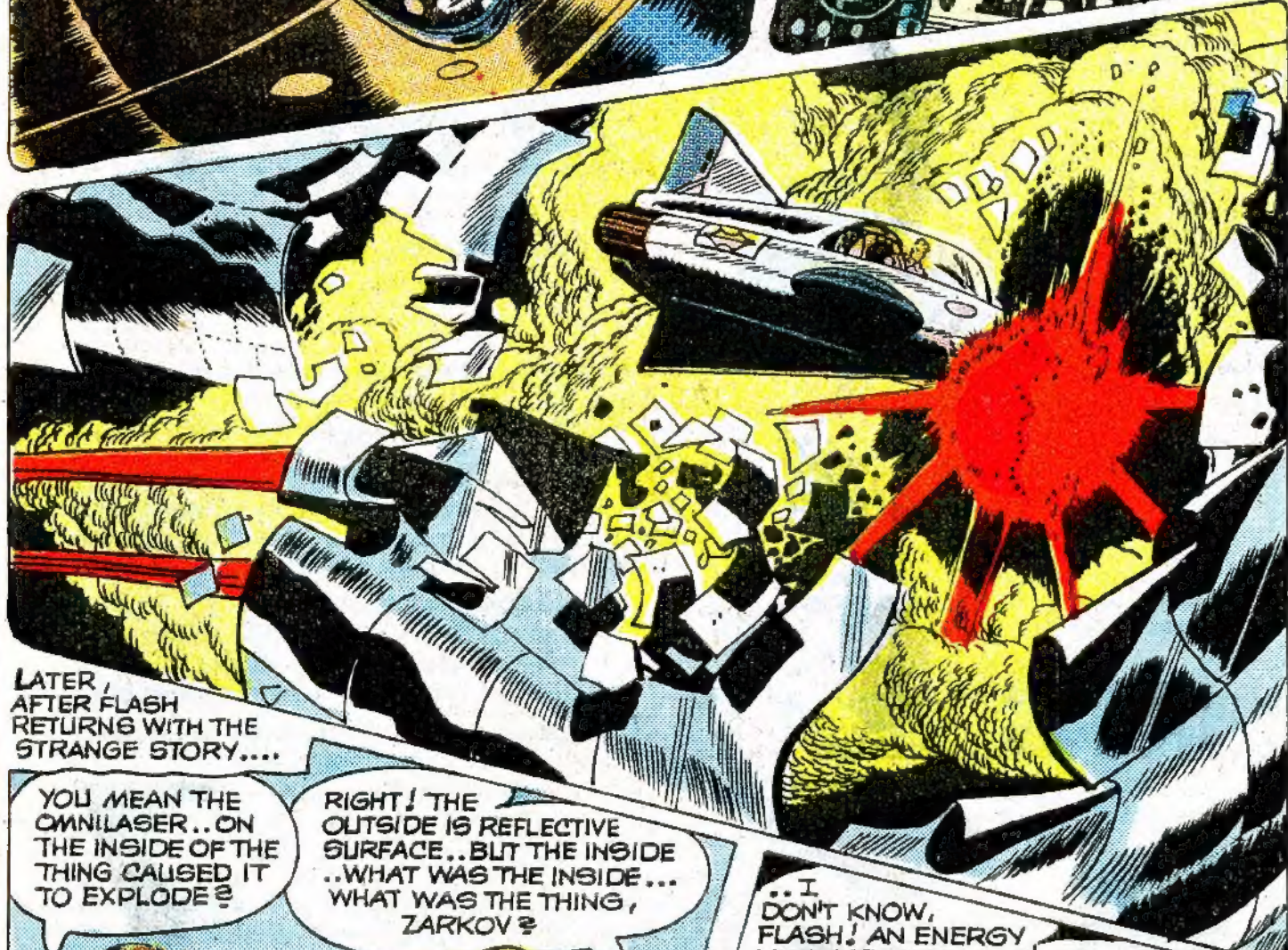
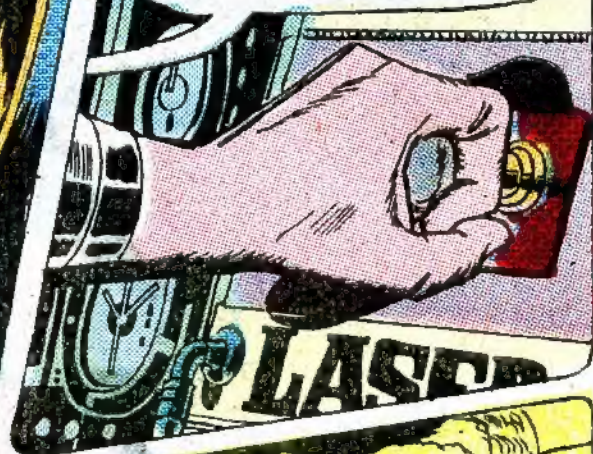
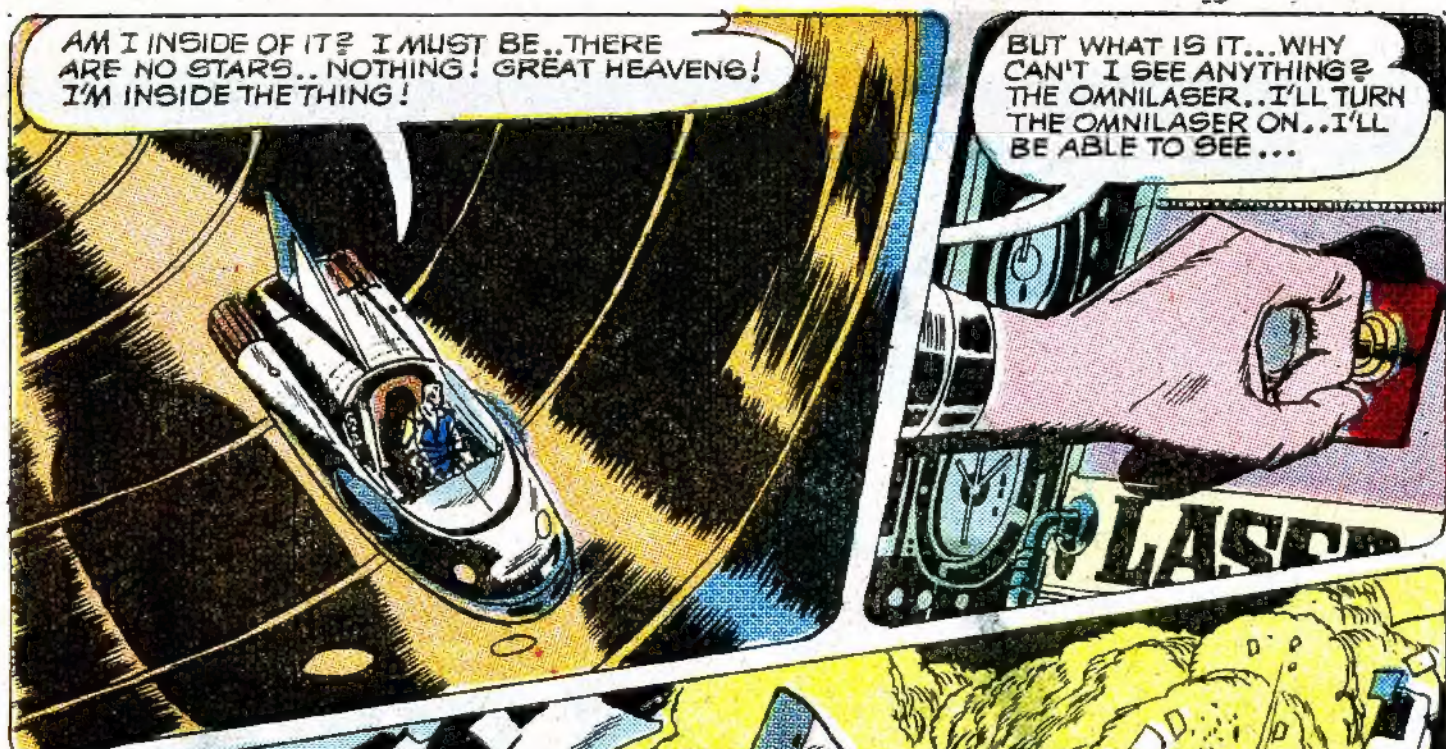
I'VE HIT IT.. IT'S
GLOWING.. THE LIGHT
IS INTENSE! ZARKOV-
YOU WERE RIGHT.. THE
BLASTER BEAM IS
BEING REFLECTED...
BUT IT CANNOT RE-
FLECT STRAIGHT
BACK!

I.. I.. CAN'T TURN
...I'M GOING TO
COLLIDE! I'M GOING
TO...



AM I INSIDE OF IT? I MUST BE..THERE ARE NO STARS.. NOTHING! GREAT HEAVENS! I'M INSIDE THE THING!

BUT WHAT IS IT...WHY CAN'T I SEE ANYTHING? THE OMNILASER..I'LL TURN THE OMNILASER ON..I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE...

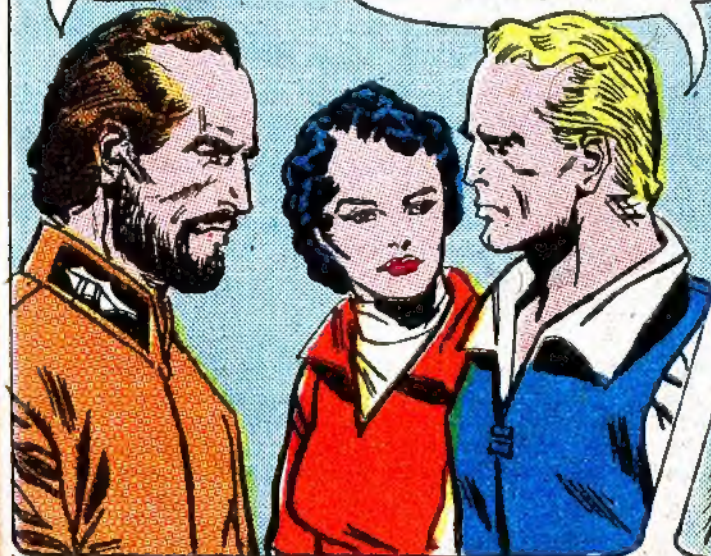


LATER, AFTER FLASH RETURNS WITH THE STRANGE STORY....

YOU MEAN THE OMNILASER..ON THE INSIDE OF THE THING CAUSED IT TO EXPLODE?

RIGHT! THE OUTSIDE IS REFLECTIVE SURFACE..BUT THE INSIDE ..WHAT WAS THE INSIDE... WHAT WAS THE THING, ZARKOV?

..I DON'T KNOW, FLASH! AN ENERGY VORTICE, PERHAPS! OR MAYBE A DEVICE MADE BY A DISTANT ALIEN! BUT-WHATEVER, IF THERE ARE MORE OF THEM... THE UNIVERSE IS NO LONGER SAFE!



THE END